

PIER TIMES & TRAILS

published by the Whitney Pier Historical Society

June 2006, Vol.1 No.1

Welcome to Pier Times & Trails

This is the first issue of the Whitney Pier Historical Society's Newsletter *Pier Times and Trails*. We plan to publish monthly from June to September to keep our members and the community updated on our activities regarding the Society, the Museum and the Whitney Pier Community Heritage Trail. We hope you find this newsletter informative. Many thanks to our monthly community sponsors who help to make this possible, and staff - Donelda MacDonald, Tammy MacNeil, Mary Mombourquette and Ashley Campbell, who put it all together.

Sandra Dunn

Newsletter Coordinator



Message from the President

Have You Seen Your Whitney Pier Museum Lately? We had over 4000 visitors for the 2005 tourist season. More people than ever are visiting and appreciating our unique exhibits. Cruise ship tourists rave about our hospitality, informative volunteers and multicultural exhibits. You can also visit our new display at the Joan Harris Pavilion, Sydney Marine Terminal. With new exhibits and a community archives, the Whitney Pier Historical Museum is growing. Stay tuned for Heritage Trail updates and make sure to read Trail Talk!

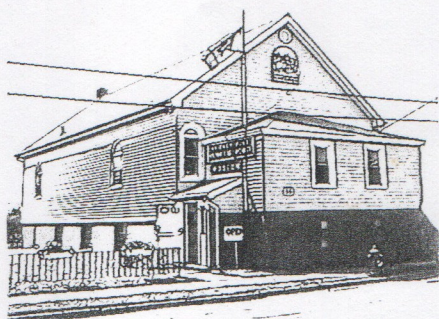
New flooring was made possible by a generous bequest from the estate of Major James Murray Walsh, CD (1915-2004) in memory of his wife Sophie Veronica (Paruch) Walsh (1916-1996). In gratitude for the request, a memorial plaque now hangs in the main lobby.

This past winter members Frank Dunn, Lorne MacIntyre, Simon Gillis and Gordon "Gramps" Kiley volunteered to build new shelves to house artifacts and the archival collection. Watch for later editions of *Whitney Pier Times & Trails* to find out more about our expansion plans.

If this is news to you, then come visit us this summer. Discover what's happening at your community museum. Even better, become a member -- it's only \$5 annually. Our membership is growing all the time. Help support worthwhile projects that benefit the whole community.

Charlie Neville

President,
Whitney Pier Historical Society



Whitney Pier Historical Museum

88 Mount Pleasant Street
Sydney, Nova Scotia

902-564-9819; wphs@syd.eastlink.ca

Hours of Operation:

June: Mon.- Fri. 9am-5pm

July - August: Mon.-Sat. 9am-5pm

Sept: 1-4pm Wed -Sat. or Appointment

Oct: Tours and by Appointment



Trail Talk

by Mary Mombourquette

Trail Coordinator

The Whitney Pier Community Heritage Trail is progressing rapidly and is well on its way to becoming a reality. When completed, the Community Heritage Trail will run from Railroad Street to Matilda Street.

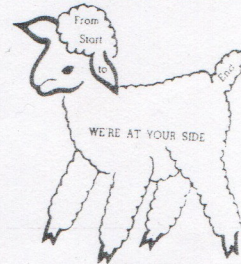
The Whitney Pier Historical Society is the umbrella organization for The Whitney Pier Community Heritage Trail. In co-operation with CBRM, NS Dept. of Natural Resources, Sydney Environmental Resources LTD and Nova Scotia Power, the Whitney Pier Community Heritage Trail will increase the recreation opportunities for the community and other CBRM residents. The Trail will commemorate the historic association between Whitney Pier and the former Steel Plant, and it will promote the heritage and beautification of the area.

The Trail will provide a walking trail, hiking trail, an adventure trail, wheelchair accessibility and much more. Community interest is welcome and public meetings will be held when all land is secured and the trail planning can start. Please contact any of our executive members: Charlie Neville (Trail Committee President), Mary Mombourquette (Trail Coordinator), Jeannie McLeod, Simon Gillis, Forrest McLeod or Posey MacKinnon by email or phone 564-9819. For more information on the trail, please contact wpchtrail@eastlink.ca or visit the temporary Trail website at www.wpchtrail.4t.com

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Teas and Tours

by Ashley Campbell, Tour Guide

Our Tuesday Teas are a great hit. If you are looking for good conversation, great musical entertainment, and a hot cup of tea or coffee then the Whitney Pier Museum is the place to be.

Teas begin in July and run through the end of August, starting at 2:00 pm and end at 3:30 pm every Tuesday. We invite everyone to join us at our Tuesday teas. People come to socialize and enjoy great entertainment by Alvin and the Artifacts. There are also King Cole Tea door prizes generously donated by Don MacLeod of Barbour's.

When you come to our Tuesday Tea you will be greeted and served by the Trekkers, workers who are sponsored by the Cape Breton Municipality. The staff at the Whitney Pier Museum is more than happy to help you in anyway we can.



continued page 3...

Teas and Tours continued

Our Cruise Ship Tours create a great opportunity for us to introduce the world to our historic community. Visiting us have been the Maasdam, Amsterdam, Sea Princess, Queen Elizabeth II and the Black Watch. We have met people from all over the Globe and have had encouraging feedback. People love to see our multicultural museum and community memories.

The tourists are happy to see our pride in our ethnically diverse community, and Whitney Pier Museum showcases all the different facets of this special place.

It's new, it's old...it's the Whitney Pier Archives!

by Donelda Mac Donald, Cataloguing Coordinator

For almost a year now, the Whitney Pier Historical Museum has been organizing its very own community archives. The archives will be a repository for our most treasured family and community documents.

Samples from the archives...

- Land Deed issued September 2, 1913 to Isabella Muggah and "Spinster" Mary A. Muggah, for Mt. Pleasant Street property
- *The Steelworker*, August 22, 1936
- The Y's Men's Club of Whitney Pier, 1946 Charter Night Programme
- Correspondence between Dave Epstein and Chappells Ltd., dated March 16, 1929.
- Whitney School Records

- Casino Theatre Admission Ticket featuring Ukrainian National Folk Dancing with
- Croatian Tambvritza String Orchestra
- 1961 Whitney Pier Athletic Club Membership Card, Leonard Boudreau



What can my family give to the archives? We are looking for any documents or family papers relating to Whitney Pier. Marriage, birth or death certificates, family trees, literature, etc... These are some of the many examples of how your family can help document your community's history.

Remember, while we value all historical documents, we can only accept those items related to Whitney Pier.

Does it have to be the original? We have the means to make copies and/or digitize any documents you wish to keep in your family records. Original family and community papers are real treasures, but our commitment is to record our community's history, so copies are always welcome!

Taking Care of Your Family's Treasures...

We must be careful when handling our family documents. Sometimes the paper is brittle and can easily tear. Our fingers also have potentially damaging oils that help breakdown the paper. To prevent further damage, try placing each page or picture in archival friendly sheet protectors. We purchased a box of 100 sheets for under \$20 locally. I also recommend wearing cotton gloves while handling these documents. In this way, we can protect valuable historical documents for future generations.

Exhibit 'A': Remembering Our Past

by Tammy MacNeil,

Archival Assistant



We have several new exhibits at the Whitney Pier Museum for this year's tourism season.

Our new Arts and Press display celebrates the work of local artists and writers such as Johnny Tynski, Simon Gillis, Elizabeth Beaton, and Austin "Bud" Gallivan. Paintings, sculptures, silk screens, sketches, photography, poems, short stories, academic studies, and more are represented in this exhibit. Also included in this display are some of the tools that were used to create these works of art, such as ink, a manual typewriter, and the book press from LeBlanc's Printing.

We also have a new Hats and Shoes exhibit that exemplifies fashions that were in style in the 1930s and 1940s. Many of these items were donated by Evelyn Moraff Davis, whose mother sold similar wares in her store on Victoria Road. There are also ladies gloves, hatpins, and handkerchiefs included in this exhibit.

The Society of United Fishermen display has been completely reorganized and arranged downstairs in the museum. The SUF was first organized in Newfoundland as a fraternity for fishermen in the 1870s. This is one of our most colorful and interesting exhibits. Artifacts include various ceremonial garments, a collection plate, and stocking stretcher in addition to beautiful photographs and certificates.

Smaller exhibits that we have worked on organizing include Glass Bottles, Transportation, Cameras, Sports Trophies, Girl Guides & Boy Scouts, and Municipal

Government. Many of our existing exhibits have been revitalized with the addition of new artifacts; the red girls basketball uniform from Holy Redeemer adds a splash of dramatic color to the Sports wall and the relocation of two oil paintings bring new life to the Veterans wall.



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Coming soon: WP Museum Postcards

All purchases are tax-free!

Be sure to pick up the July issue of
Pier Times & Trails!